IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-10, 12-13, 22-43, 46, and 48, cancel claims 11, 14-21, 44-45, and 47, and add claims 49-55 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server for use in a telecommunications network, the security server configured to~~comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a message via a secure interface or directly from outside a telecommunications network;

a determiner configured to determine whether the message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via the secure interface; ~~and~~

a forwarder configured to forward the message within the telecommunications network regardless of the result of the determination~~,~~; ~~but~~and

a modifier configured to modify the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check if the result of the determination is that the message has not been through a security check ~~modify the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~security server~~receiver is configured to receive a message from outside the telecommunications network.

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3. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 1, ~~wherein the security server~~ further comprising:

a modifier ~~is~~ configured to modify the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check by adding a parameter to the message that indicates that the message has not been through a security check.

4. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 3, wherein the ~~security server~~ receiver is configured to receive a message that includes an identity header and is further configured to add the parameter to the identity header of the message.

5. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 4, wherein the message comprises a session initiation protocol message.

6. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 4, wherein the identity header comprises a P-Asserted-Identity.

7. (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 1, further comprising:

a modifier configured to modify the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check by removing at least part of the identity header,

wherein the receiver is configured to receive a message that includes an identity header ~~and is further configured to modify the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check by removing at least part of the identity header~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim 7, ~~wherein the security server~~further comprising:

a detector ~~is~~configured to detect whether the identity header is of a particular type and if so to remove at least part of the header.

9. (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim 7, wherein the message comprises a session initiation protocol message.

10. (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim 8, wherein the ~~security server~~detector is configured to detect whether the identity header comprises a P-Asserted-Identity type.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim ~~11~~1, wherein the secure interface ~~means~~is a Za interface.

13.   (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 1, wherein the ~~security server~~apparatus comprises an interrogating call session control function.

14 - 21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Currently Amended) A system ~~telecommunications network~~ comprising:

a security server; and

a network processing element,

the security server being configured to

    receive a message via a secure interface or directly from outside the system~~;~~,

    determine whether the message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via the secure interface~~;~~,

    if the result of the determination is that the message has not been through a security check modify the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check~~;~~, and

    forward the message to the network processing element regardless of the result of the determination.

23.   (Currently Amended) A system ~~telecommunications network~~ according to claim 22, wherein the security server is configured to receive a message from outside the ~~telecommunications network~~system.

24.   (Currently Amended) A system ~~telecommunications network~~ according to claim 22, wherein the network processing element is configured to:

receive a message forwarded by the security server; and

determine whether the message has been modified so as to indicate that it has not been through a security check, and, if it has been so modified, perform one or more security checks in respect of the message.

25.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~of performing a security check on a message in a telecommunications network, the method~~ comprising:

receiving a message ~~that has not been through a security check~~ via a secure interface or directly from outside a telecommunications network;

determining that the message has not been through a security check by determining that it has not been received via the secure interface;

modifying the message so as to indicate that the message has not been through a security check; and

forwarding the message within the telecommunications network.

26.   (Currently Amended) A~~n~~ apparatus ~~security server for use in a telecommunications network, the security server configured to~~comprising:

a receiver configured to receive a message via a secure interface or directly from outside a telecommunications network;

a determiner configured to determine whether the message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via the secure interface; and

a forwarder configured to forward the message within the communications network regardless of the result of the determination but, if the result of the determination is that the message has not been through a security check, forward the message in a manner that indicates that the message has not been through a security check.

27.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 26, wherein the ~~security server~~ receiver is configured to receive the message from outside the telecommunications network.

28.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~security server~~ according to claim 26, wherein the ~~security server~~forwarder is configured to forward the message without security, if it is determined that the message has not been through a security check.

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29.   (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim 26, wherein the ~~security server~~forwarder is configured to forward the message with security, if it is determined that the message has been through a security check.

30.   (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim 28, wherein the security comprises a Zb interface.

31.   (Currently Amended) A~~n apparatus~~ ~~security server~~ according to claim 26, wherein the message comprises a session initiation protocol message.

32.   (Currently Amended) A ~~security server~~apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the ~~security server~~apparatus comprises an interrogating call session control function.

33.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system comprising:

a security server; and

a network processing element,

the security server being configured to

   receive a message via a secure interface or directly from outside the

system~~;~~,

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determine whether the message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via the secure interface; and

forward the message to the network processing element regardless of the result of the determination, but, if the result of the determination is that the message has not been through a security check, forward the message in a manner that indicates that the message has not been through a security check.

34. (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 33, wherein the security server is configured to receive a message from outside the ~~telecommunications network~~system.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 33, further comprising:

an internal security system,

wherein the security server is configured to forward the message via the internal security system, if it is determined that the message, has been through a security check, and

wherein the security system is configured to not forward the message via the internal security system, if it is determined that the message has not been through a security check.

36.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 35, wherein the internal security system comprises a universal mobile telecommunications system specified security system.

37.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 35, wherein the internal security system comprises a Zb interface.

38.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 33, wherein the message comprises a session initiation protocol message.

39.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 33, wherein the security server is configured to determine whether a message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via a secure means.

40.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 39, wherein the secure means comprises a universal mobile telecommunications system standard security means.

41.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 39, wherein the secure means comprises a Za interface.

42.   (Currently Amended) A ~~telecommunications network~~system according to claim 33, wherein the security server comprises an interrogating call session control function.

43.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~of performing a security check on a message in a telecommunications network, the method~~ comprising:

receiving a message ~~that has not been through a security check~~ via a secure interface or directly from outside a telecommunications network;

determining that the message has not been through a security check by determining that the message has not been received via the secure interface; and

forwarding the message within the communications network in a manner that indicates that the message has not been through a security check.

44-45. (Canceled).

46.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~security server for use in a telecommunications network, the security server~~ comprising:

receiving means for receiving a message via a secure interface or directly from outside a telecommunications network;

determining means for determining whether the message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via the secure interface;

modifying means for, if the message is determined not to have been through a security check, modifying the message to indicate that it has not been through a security check; and

forwarding means for forwarding the message within the telecommunications network regardless of whether the message has been through a security check.

Claim 47.   (Canceled)

48.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~security server for use in a telecommunications network, the security server~~ comprising:

receiving means for receiving a message via a secure interface or directly from outside a telecommunications network;

determining means for determining whether the message has been through a security check by determining whether or not the message has been received via the secure interface; and

forwarding means for forwarding the message within the communications network regardless of the result of the determination but, if the result of the determination is that the message has not been through a security check, forwarding the message in a manner that indicates that the message has not been through a security check.

49.　(New) A system according to claim 22, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface.

50.　(New) A method according to claim 25, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface.

51.　(New) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface

52.　(New) A system according to claim 33, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface.

53.　(New) A method according to claim 43, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface.

54. (New) An apparatus according to claim 46, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface.

55. (New) An apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the secure interface is a Za interface.